

The Diocese of Sodor and Man
Together making Christ visible



**APPLICATION TO THE BISHOP
for
A SPECIAL MARRIAGE LICENCE**

- **The Couple should complete and sign Form SL1 in CAPITAL LETTERS. Please ensure that the spelling of names and addresses is clear.**

Before completing the form, the couple must consult the cleric whom they wish to officiate at the wedding. If that minister is not the parish priest, the agreement of the parish priest is required.

Couples should be informed that the granting of Special Marriage Licences is a matter for the Bishop and be advised to make an application before committing themselves to arrangements.

- **The Officiating Minister should complete and sign Form SL2.**
- **If either party to the marriage lives outside the Isle of Man, Form SL3 should be completed and signed.**
- **The Forms SL1 and SL2 (with SL3 if applicable) are sent with the fee (payable to ‘Sodor & Man Diocesan Registry’) to:**

**Mr Lionel Lennox, Diocesan Registrar
Provincial & Diocesan Registry
Stamford House
Piccadilly
YORK
YO1 9PP
Telephone: (01904) 623487
Email: registrar@sodorandman.im**

Please ensure that all the forms and the fee are sent in a single mailing.

Electronic copies and emailed forms are not acceptable.

Please address any queries to the Diocesan Registrar.

Form SL1
APPLICATION BY THE COUPLE
for a Special Marriage Licence

	Please use CAPITALS LETTERS	Man	Woman
1	CHRISTIAN NAMES IN FULL		
2	SURNAME		
3	RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS with post code		
4	ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH in which residential address is situate		
5	E-mail address		
6	Telephone number (Home / Work / Mobile)		
7	NATIONALITY <i>See note below.</i> ¹		
8	Date of birth		
9	PLACE OF BIRTH		
10	OCCUPATION		
11	FATHER'S FULL NAME ²		
12	FATHER'S OCCUPATION ³		
13	MOTHER'S FULL NAME ²		
14	MOTHER'S OCCUPATION ³		
15	DATE of intended marriage		
16	CHURCH or CHAPEL where marriage is proposed to take place		
	ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH in which that church or chapel is situate.		

¹ Please enter the nationality on your passport: 'Manx' is not acceptable.

² If the father or mother has died then after the name add "(deceased)"

³ Enter a full description of the occupation of father or mother.

If father or mother has retired then after the occupation add "(retired)".

17	Condition <i>Delete four in each box</i>	1 Single 2 Widower 3 Surviving civil partner 4 Previous marriage dissolved 5 Previous civil partnership dissolved	1 Single 2 Widow 3 Surviving civil partner 4 Previous marriage dissolved 5 Previous civil partnership dissolved
18	Have you been through any form of wedding ceremony before?	Yes / No <i>If 'No', go straight to question 20</i>	Yes / No <i>If 'No', go straight to question 20</i>
19	If 'Yes' to 18, is your spouse still alive? <i>Delete one in each box</i>	Yes / No	Yes / No
If 'Yes' to 19, please ensure that the cleric signing form SL2 has seen the final divorce order(s) (decree(s) absolute), and explain fully to him or her the circumstances leading to the divorce(s). Please read the Guidelines on page 9.			
If 'No' to 19, please ensure that the cleric signing form SL2 has seen the death certificate(s).			
20	Are you related to each other in any way?	Yes / No	
21	If related, in what way?		
22	Have you been baptized (christened)? <i>See below. ⁴</i>	Yes / No	Yes / No
23	Why do you wish to marry at the church you have chosen? What special connection do you have with it? Are there any unusual circumstances? <i>See the Guidelines pages 7-8.</i>		
24	To the best of my knowledge, all the information on this form is correct. The information on this form will be used to complete the registers of marriage. Under section 3 of the Perjury Act 1952, if any person knowingly and wilfully makes, for the purpose of being inserted in a register of marriage, a false statement as to any particular required by law to be registered relating to a marriage, he or she is guilty of an offence and liable to custody for up to 7 years and/or an unlimited fine.		
25	Your signatures		
26	Date		

⁴ It is **not** necessary to be baptized in order to marry in church because marriage is a gift of God for all humanity. However, baptism is the sign of God's commitment to you and of your commitment to Christ and his Church. Your priest will gladly tell you more.

Form SL2

STATEMENT BY THE OFFICIATING MINISTER
concerning a Special Marriage Licence

1	NAME OF OFFICIATING MINISTER	
2	BENEFICE OR OTHER APPOINTMENT HELD	
3	ADDRESS	
4	E-mail	
5	FULL NAMES OF PARTIES WHOM YOU HAVE AGREED TO MARRY	Man:
		Woman:
6	CHURCH OR CHAPEL IN WHICH YOU HAVE AGREED TO MARRY THEM	
7	Date of the proposed marriage	
<i>If neither party has been widowed or had a previous marriage dissolved, strike through questions 8-10.</i>		
8	If one or both of the parties has had a marriage dissolved, have you seen the final divorce order(s) (decree(s) absolute)? <i>(Delete as applicable)</i>	Yes / No
9	If one or both of the parties has a former spouse still living, are you satisfied that the Bishop's criteria [page 9] have been met? <i>(Delete as applicable)</i>	Yes / No
10	If one or both of the parties has been widowed, have you seen the death certificate(s)? <i>(Delete as applicable)</i>	Yes / No
11	Are you satisfied that the parties are free to marry each other?	Yes / No

12	Has the incumbent ⁵ of the proposed venue consented to the wedding taking place there? (Delete as applicable)	Yes / No or			
		I am the incumbent			
13	Have you consulted with the incumbent of the parish(es) in which the parties live or are listed on the Electoral Roll? (Delete as applicable)	Yes / No or			
		I am the incumbent of both parties			
14	Does that incumbent / Do those incumbents agree to the marriage taking place at the proposed venue? (Delete as applicable)	Yes / No or			
		I am the incumbent of both parties			
15	Will you make arrangements for the marriage registers to be available for the ceremony? (Delete two)	Yes / No or			
		I am the incumbent			
16	Are you satisfied that there are good reasons for the couple to be married at the proposed venue? Are there unusual circumstances? Please summarize the reasons.				
17	Under which of the Guidelines (pages 7-9) is this application being made? (Tick appropriate box or boxes)	Category	✓	Category	✓
		9A and 10		14	
		9A and 11		15	
		9B and 12		After divorce	
		9B and 13			
18	To the best of my knowledge, all the information on this form is correct.				
19	Signature				
20	Date				

Please give this to the couple, who will send it, with their application form(s) and the fee, to the Diocesan Registrar. Please inform the couple of the current fee. This is available on the Diocesan website > Contact > Diocesan Registry > Fees
Further guidance is available on www.gumbley.net/registry

⁵ 'Incumbent' includes 'Priest in Charge' throughout.

Form SL3

CERTIFICATE

in support of the parties requesting a Special Marriage Licence of the Bishop of Sodor and Man where one or both of the parties is not resident in the Isle of Man

1	YOUR FULL NAME	
2	FULL ADDRESS	
3	E-mail address	
4	QUALIFICATION <i>See note below.</i> ⁶	
5	FULL NAMES OF PARTIES TO THE PROPOSED MARRIAGE	MAN:
		WOMAN:
6	Are the parties known to you?	Yes / No
7a	If 'Yes' to 6, for how long?	
7b	If 'No' to 6, please attach evidence that the parties are free to marry each other, (e.g. signed statements from each party).	
8	Are you satisfied that the parties are free to marry each other?	Yes / No
9	Signature	
10	Date	

⁶ You must be

- a Notary Public, **or**
- a British Consul, **or**
- a Commissioned Officer in H.M. Armed Forces, **or**
- an Anglican Cleric within Great Britain and Ireland who is authorised by law to solemnise marriages.

You must also state the appointment you hold.

GUIDELINES FOR THE GRANTING OF SPECIAL LICENCES

General

- 1 Special licences will not be granted ...
 - to facilitate illegal or undesirable marriages, **or**
 - to secure privacy or secrecy for a marriage, **or**
 - to relax or modify generally the statutory restrictions on marriage after banns or by common licence issued by a Surrogate for Marriages.
- 2 Special licences may be used to facilitate a marriage in church which might otherwise be difficult or impossible.
- 3 Clergy must ensure that couples who are married by special licence should be prepared for marriage, and be assured of the support of the Church in their family life thereafter.
- 4 Due regard will be had to the extra burden which special licences impose on the parochial clergy. No application will be considered unless SL2 has been completed by the cleric who is to officiate.

Sickness

- 5 Consideration will be given to the granting of a special licence for the marriage of a party who is chronically sick or dying; the current fee is payable.

Unconsecrated places

- 6 Special licences will not be granted for marriages ...
 - at a place approved by the Chief Registrar for civil marriages, **or**
 - at any other unconsecrated place, except in the case of a party who is chronically sick or dying, or in exceptional circumstances.

Consecrated buildings

- 7 Marriage in a consecrated building which is not the parish church or usual place of worship of either party will not be permitted without reasonable justification, which should normally be a genuine personal or family connection, determined in accordance with paragraph 9 below.
- 8 Wedding tourism is discouraged. The fact that a church or chapel is an attractive location cannot be regarded as a sufficient justification.

Parish churches and licensed chapels

- 9 Marriage at a parish church or licensed chapel which is not the parish church or usual place of worship of either party will not be permitted unless ...
 - A. the parish can be regarded as the 'home' of either party or of either party's family in accordance with paragraph 10 or 11 below, **or**
 - B. the church or chapel can be regarded as the party's church or the church of either party's family in accordance with paragraph 12 and 13 below, **or**
 - C. the parties wish to be married by the incumbent or priest in charge because of a strong family or other personal connection with him/her as an individual.

- 10** For a parish to be regarded as a party's home, he or she must have resided there for a considerable time:
- at least six months in all cases, **and**
 - if the period of residence was ten years or more ago, the residence should have been for at least twelve months.
- Alternatively**, he or she must be an active member of the parish community by reason of his or her working in the parish.
- 11** For a parish to be regarded as the home of a party's family, at least one parent must normally ...
- be residing there, **or**
 - have resided there for a substantial period in the past (applying the same criteria as in paragraph 10 above).
- Exceptionally**, a known connection with a parish over at least two generations may be sufficient.
- 12** For a church or chapel to be regarded as a party's church ...
- he or she must have habitually attended it for at least six months, **or**
 - if the period of attendance was ten years or more ago, he or she should have habitually attended the church for a period of at least twelve months, **or**
 - he or she was baptized or prepared and presented for confirmation there.
- 13** For a church or chapel to be regarded as the church of a party's family ...
- at least one parent must have habitually attended it for at least six months to the date of the application, **or**
 - if the period of attendance was ten years or more ago, at least one parent should have habitually attended the church for a period of at least twelve months.
- Exceptionally**, a known connection with the church over at least two generations may be sufficient.

Former parish churches and chapels of ease

- 14** A person who is an habitual worshipper at a former parish church or chapel of ease should normally be permitted to marry there. Otherwise, the same criteria should be applied as for parish churches and licensed chapels.

Bishop's Court Chapel

- 15** A Special Marriage Licence may be granted for a wedding in the Chapel at Bishop's Court of:
- persons eligible to be married in Kirk Michael after banns,
 - the owner,
 - the father, mother, child or grandchild of the owner,
 - a present member of staff at Bishop's Court,
 - a child of a present member of staff
- ... provided that the incumbent of the Parish of the West Coast is consulted and counter-signs Form SL2, and that care is taken to ensure that good preparation and on-going pastoral support is provided.
- The marriage shall be recorded in the marriage registers of Kirk Michael.

King William's College Chapel

- 16 A Special Marriage Licence may be granted for a marriage in the College Chapel of a person with a close connection to the College community:
- a current or former pupil,
 - a current or former member of staff,
 - a parent of a current pupil,
 - a child of a current or former member of staff.

The incumbent of Arbory & Castletown must be consulted and counter-sign Form SL2. The Chaplain should ensure that the priest conducting the wedding, whether the Chaplain or a visiting cleric, will undertake to provide good preparation and on-going pastoral support.

The marriage shall be recorded in the marriage registers of St Mary's on the Harbour, Castletown.

Notes to the Clergy

1. When a marriage by Special Licence has been solemnised, the minister may give the original licence to the couple providing that he or she endorses it in permanent ink, as follows: **Marriage solemnized on [date] at [place] by me, [signature.]** The copy licence must be returned, identically endorsed, to the Diocesan Registrar.
2. Clergy and parishes are warmly encouraged to use 'Weddings Project' resources, available on request from (and payment to) the Bishop's Office.
3. In order to establish a contact between couples and the local Anglican parish near to their married home, please use 'A Church Near You': <http://www.achurchnearyou.com>

A PRAYER FOR THOSE WHO ARE TO BE MARRIED BY SPECIAL LICENCE

Lord of love,
 we pray for *N* and *M* (*this couple*):
 be with them in all their preparations
 and on their wedding day;
 give them your love in their hearts
 throughout their married life together;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

MARRIAGE IN CHURCH AFTER DIVORCE WHEN A FORMER SPOUSE IS STILL LIVING

All marriage is holy. The Church recognises as 'holy matrimony' all marriages between a man and a woman for life to the exclusion of others, whether celebrated in Church or in a civil ceremony. However, there is something very special about marriage in Church because vows are made in the sight of God and his blessing is sought on the marriage.

Our Lord Jesus Christ taught that all marriages should last for life and the Church clearly upholds his teaching on this: so a wedding in Church is based clearly on the couple's clear intention that marriage should last until the death of one partner.

On the other hand, many parts of the Church recognise that marriages can die and divorce is sometimes a sad reality. Thus the Church of England acknowledges that 'there are circumstances in which a divorcee may be married in church during the lifetime of a former spouse'.

The assumptions behind any marriage in these circumstances is that ...

- neither party had been involved in the break-up of the previous marriage of the other party; **and**
- all children are being properly cared for; **and**
- the divorced party or parties have learned from their experience of the previous marriage/marriages and their ending, so that in the new marriage they will benefit from the experience; **and**
- the couple hear and appreciate the gospel of forgiveness and hope for the future in our Lord Jesus Christ.

You will find further helpful material, including useful questions for the minister and couple, in the 'Advice to clergy concerning marriage and the divorced' in the supplement to the Canons of the Church of England. See <http://www.churchofengland.org/about-us/structure/churchlawlegis/canons/supplementary-material.aspx#Head1-132>

The parish priest will spend time discussing these issues with the couple before making a decision as to whether they may be married in Church. Clergy must see and read carefully the originals of the provisional and final divorce orders (decrees nisi and absolute). In the unlikely event of a difference of opinion the couple and/or the minister may contact the Bishop and ask for a discussion with him.

In certain cases it may be more appropriate for couples to ask for a service of Prayer and Dedication after a Civil Marriage: this can take place any time after the marriage.

The Church of Jesus Christ is a body of people who know that they are forgiven sinners and that no-one is beyond the love of God.

+ Robert Sodor as Mannin.
Revised September 2014.